

Connecticut General Assembly  
Environment Committee  
February 24, 2016

HB-5316

My name is John Chunis. I live at 40 Deerfield Run, Rocky Hill, CT. I am testifying against the following bill:

HB-5316 An Act Concerning Sport Fishing Licenses for Anglers who are 65 Years of Age or Older.

As a taxpayer who lived in this state for over 40 years, I believe it is important that we provide services and opportunities for the less fortunate. Many seniors live on fixed income, and any extra fees, such as proposed in this bill, will only keep them from enjoying the sport in their retirement. Just because the demographics may be changing does not justify charging older people for something that they used to get subsidized by the state. Using the same logic as proposed in this bill, should we now raise the fees for their meals on wheels, the senior bus, or senior discounts? The federal government still gives free passes to all federal parks for seniors. I think the State of Connecticut should do the same.

While there may be organizations in the State who represent wealthy seniors, they don't speak for everyone. I ask the Committee to consider those older folks you see fishing off the bridges in our inner cities, and ask yourself, do we, in this affluent state, want to start asking these poor people for more money to enjoy a few activities during their last years alive, or perhaps force them to give up the sport entirely?

Please do not pass this bill.